

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of August 8, 2006

LOCATION:	234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:	Laurel Arndt; Celeste Hamilton; Anne Lynch; Randy Virden
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:	Raul Chayrez; Jill Kusy, Jack Stapley
STAFF PRESENT:	William Scalzo, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Ken Mouw, Engineering Manager; Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager; Kristen Mohamed, Trails Planner; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator IV and Recorder, Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor; Kevin Costello, County Counsel

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the August 8, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

Chair Hamilton said a few words on the passing of Bob Gualden, Cave Creek Regional Park Supervisor. A moment of silence was held in his honor.

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2006 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Motion to approve the July 11 minutes as printed was made by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Commissioner Virden. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #4- DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – William C. Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- At McDowell Mountain Regional Park the 2007 National Off-Road Bicycle Association will hold their championship series. McDowell also has scheduled Culturefest on November 3rd, 2006 which is being sponsored by the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Participation is limited, invitations will be sent to all Parks and Recreation Commissioners later this summer.
- Mr. Scalzo expressed appreciation in regards to the "tasting the desert" program by Kevin Smith at Spur Cross.

- Lake Pleasant has some great programs and events going on emphasizing clean up and safety. There are two safety programs currently going on, the life jacket program and one on carbon monoxide poisoning.
- White Tank Mountain Regional Park has been working with State agencies to secure the north border on a continuous basis.
- Maricopa Trails has sent IGA drafts to 3 cities/towns that we are waiting to hear back on, this will give us partnerships with them.
- The Environmental Assessment for the new marina is finalized and has been released.
- A horseback riding concession proposal was submitted to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for approval at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. We have support from Congressman Pastor, who agrees with parks activities and has sent a letter expressing his support to BLM.
- The grant project of fencing for San Tan Mountain Regional Park is almost complete. Eastside Superintendent Teresa Retterbush has been continually meeting with Pinal County to resolve road and sign issues.
- Staff is involved in the projects for new visitor centers by getting input and making sure this project goes in the direction that is needed for future needs.
- Mr. Scalzo recently attended the Oglebay Revenue Management School mid year program. Don Harris, Park Supervisor, received a scholarship from the Revenue Management School at Oglebay. This is Don's second year in a row Don has won a scholarship to attend the school.

Mr. Scalzo mentioned to the Commissioners that the APRA Conference is coming up the end of August and they are holding a full day for Boards and Commissions.

ITEM # 5 – MASTER PLAN REPORT – RJ Cardin, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *PRESENTATION/INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM*

- Commissioner Arndt noted that she did not receive the email updates on the master plan report, as she is part of the review committee. Kristen Mohamed gave her the report during the meeting.
- RJ Cardin, Assistant Director stated this report is to review the intent and some of the goals which lay the foundation for the Master Plan Report. The purpose of the plan is to provide a conceptual frame work or blueprint, to strategically position the department as a recognized leader in delivering regional services in Maricopa County.
- We want to create a plan that will set forth the appropriate park system structures and policies to guide this system through the next 50 years.
- Commissioner Kusy had sent in her reply as a part of the review committee. She asked to include that the purpose of the plan is to affirm that the County Park system will remain one of the finest in the country.
- Part of the goal is to make sure the plan conforms to the overall county mission and vision. To capitalize on existing work that has been done, including; making sure the SQA results, MfR, Process Improvement work and other areas are all integrated into the plan. We should receive public, stakeholder, BLM, Forest Service and other community input.
- The consultant we use will be lead by our department for this project.
- Commissioner Virden noted his concern in the 50 year timeline that it never explicitly talks about a demand analysis for that time period, and suggests that it should be included. Commissioner Virden

also mentioned the possible needs for each individual parks to be more specific to the action plan. Commissioner Virden expressed his appreciation to RJ for his work on the project.

- Commissioner Arndt encouraged us to include where our future developments will be. Specifically to identify more of the needs for the future in this master plan.

ITEM # 6 PARKS DISTRICT LEGISLATION – RJ Cardin, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *PRESENTATION/INFORMATION ITEM*

- RJ Cardin, Assistant Director informed the Commission that the County is contacting legislative staff regarding possible needs and items required for parks district legislation. He passed out a draft to Commission members and noted that by establishing this source it will help furnish funds to provide higher quality experiences for our visitors and protect our resources. This can be done without impacting the general fund.
- It is essential to meet with other counties regarding establishing park district legislation. Coconino County has already had some success with an amendment, Pima and Yuma County are interested and have requested follow up regarding the process, also noting that Yavapai County indicated a thank you and asked us to keep them informed.
- Mr. Scalzo stated that we could get strong support from the BOS. He supports a parks district legislation to include that there be a ten (10) year review that would be voted on and that this has been a key tool for other counties across the nation and the public can see the capital and operations.
- A single County District was approved by Legislation previously.
- Commissioner Hamilton supports park district legislation strongly, and economically in the long run it is worth all the effort for us to see this through. She warns that it will be a long process and for everyone to educate themselves as much as possible.

ITEM # 7 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Mr. Scalzo discussed a letter that he sent out to Todd Dickey, in regards to his request for landing hydroplanes at Lake Pleasant. He also noted that he invited Mr. Dickey to next month's Commission meeting to present before the Commission members his request.
- Commissioner Arndt thanked Mr. Scalzo for doing the letter.

Item # 8 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

Item # 9 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 9:55a.m.

William C. Scalzo, Director/Secretary

Celeste Hamilton, Chair